Rs. 3205 crore as on 1.9.99 under 22 Commissionerates when the scheme was introduced after cases were settled under KVSS;

(c) if so, the number of cases settled and the amount realized; and

(d) what are the reasons for its failure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) No Sir. The Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme attained a reasonable degree of success in realizing its objective of declogging tax administration and raising revenues which is evident from collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 738.74 crores and settlement of 33,918 disputes under the direct tax enactments and similarly, collection of taxes amounting to Rs. 643.80 crores and settlement of 11,159 disuptes under the indirect tax enactments pending before different adjudicating/appellate authorities or courts. In all, over 45,000 disputes were settled under the scheme both under the direct tax enactments and indirect tax enactments.

Non-debiting of Special Additional Duty

251. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-debiting of special Additional Duty (SAD), Duty Entitlement Pass Book and grant of exemption from SAD rather than taking its incidence into account for fixation of credit rate caused an irrecoverable loss of revenue of Rs. 666 crore during 1998-99; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of dismantling of APM

252. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the scheduled dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism for the Petroleum Sector with effect from 1st April, 2002;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken to fulfil commitment to meet the deadline; and

(c) the details of the road map drawn-up, if any, towards sector decontrol involving *inter-alia* withdrawal of subsidies on Kerosene and cooking gas rationalizing duty structure and liquidating the oil pool deficit etc. and their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are yet to be finalised.

Reduction of subsidy on LPG

253. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to reduce subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c)As per the Government decisions of November 1997 on the phased dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism (APM), subsidy on Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) at 15% of the import parity is to be met from the fiscal budget effective 1.4.2002. At present, no proposal is under consideration of the Government in this regard.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

254. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised in different parts of the country;

(b) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to utilise natural gas in the country?